

SUMMER READING: BOOK LISTS & PROGRAMS



Waldorf School Reading List Through the Grades:

Created by the Denver Waldorf School's Library Committee and teachers.

An extensive resource for books that align with the developing child and curriculum, organized by grade. With multiple categories in each section, there sure to be something on this list to get readers in your house excited.

Summer Reading Through the County & City Libraries:

Use the digital record found on the Beanstack app or obtain a reading record from your local library. Record your reading activities and return it to the library to receive a free book and prizes! Participate in both the county library programs and the city library program!



Utah State Fair Park (Grades 1-6):

Read 10 books and return the form to earn one children's admission to the Utah State Fair, a free drink coupon, a free carnival ride coupon, bookmark, and a giant yellow slide coupon. The form can be filled out online or you can mail a paper version.

Barnes and Noble Summer Reading (Grades 1-6):

Children read a designated number of books, write about their favorite part in the Reading Journal, and bring a completed Reading Journal to a Barnes & Noble then choose their free book from the books listed on the Reading Journal. Readers may collect their book in July and August.



Book Your Summer:

Register for the summer reading program at your local library. Then enter for a chance at one of six regional \$2,000 my529 scholarships. One entry per reader, age 18 and under (born on or after May 1, 2008).

Book Your Summer runs May 1, 2026, through July 31.

SUMMER READING THROUGH THE GRADES

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Summer is an opportunity for students to read one on one with caregivers and enhance reading skills developed during the school year. Reading together as a family can form an essential part of the fabric of a daily summer rhythm.

Children look forward to hearing stories that enliven their sense of wonder and empathy, giving them a window into other places, people, and cultures. The bonding experience of hearing books read aloud at bedtime also increases children's vocabulary, comprehension, and ability to focus

while nurturing their own desires to become lifelong readers. When children engage in the reading process themselves, this can prevent the "summer slide." A recent study found that 3rd to 5th grade students lose about 20 percent of their school-year reading gains over summer break, and this can lead to increased learning gaps over time.

We ask Wasatch families to commit to 20 minutes of reading a day, either together or independently depending on the child's reading level.

Grade 1

Fairy and Folk Tales, Nature Stories, Alphabet Books, Poetry, and Picture Books read aloud or alone.

The right book for this age carries that enchanted quality: characters with one luminous trait, plots that resolve, language that rings. Whether a tale is heard or slowly sounded out, what nourishes most is the imaginative picture it leaves behind.

Grade 2

Fables, Legends of Saints and Heroes, Folk Tales, Poetry, Early Readers, and Picture Books read aloud or alone.

Books that hold this polarity, where the foolish and the wise, the brave and the timid — meet children right where they are. An ear for rhythm and wordplay is blossoming, and poetry read aloud continues to nourish it.

Grade 3

Creation Stories, Nature and Farming Tales, Practical Life Stories, Early Chapter Books, and Poetry.

Books rooted in the practical and the purposeful — in how things are made, grown, and tended — answer a deep need in the third grader. Chapter books that can be carried forward across several evenings begin to suit them well.

Grade 4

Mythology, Animal Stories, Local History and Geography, Chapter Books, and Poetry.

They are ready for heroes with flaws, for conflict without easy resolution, for the tension between fate and will. Independent reading is taking hold, and chapter books with momentum and character carry them forward.

Grade 5

Mythology, Biography, Historical Fiction, Nature Writing, and Chapter Books.

Fifth grade brings a kind of golden balance: children at this age carry an emerging clarity of thought alongside a still-warm imaginative life. Biography begins to matter. This is a ripe age for falling in love with a book and reading long into the evening.

Grade 6

Adventure and Exploration, Biography, Historical Fiction, and Longer Novels.

Sixth graders are growing into a new relationship with cause and effect, justice, law, and the way the world is organized. Books with moral weight, in which characters must navigate competing loyalties and make consequential choices, begin to resonate in a new way.

Grade 7

Age of Exploration, Biography, World Literature, Adventure, and Young Adult Fiction.

The seventh grader is moving towards self-awareness, curiosity, and sometimes restlessness. Age-of-exploration narratives offer models of individuals who dared to see the world differently. Fiction suitable for this age engages the growing capacity for empathy and moral nuance.

Grade 8

Revolutionary History, Social Justice, Coming-of-Age Fiction, Memoir, Biography, and Longer Novels.

By eighth grade, young people are ready to grapple with the full weight of history and the complexity of what it means to be human. Books that do not shy away from struggle, injustice, or the ambiguity of real lives are not too much for them; often, they are exactly what is needed.